DC COMICS™
ARROW
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NEW TV SERIES
13
NIGHTWING
THE NEW 52!
LADY SHIVA'S GOT HER SIGHTS SET ON GOTHAM!
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RATED T TEEN
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Some nights it just doesn't pay to don a costume.
The Joker is back in town.*
That usually electrifies the city, jolting all the local crime bosses and masked wannabes into overdrive--
--scrambling to take advantage of the massive distraction he provides to the law enforcement community.
Not tonight.
The streets of Gotham City are quiet.
Quiet as the grave.
*SEE BATMAN #13 FOR DETAILS! --B.C.

This weapons factory is completely deserted--
--like the other three gangland haunts I've hit tonight.
From the scattered components and half-assembled weaponry, I'd say the deadbeats cleared out in a hurry.
Something or someone must have frightened them off.
What's going on?
Where have all the mobsters gone?
Is the city facing some kind of gang war--
--or something significantly worse?

After witnessing the murder of his parents, teenager Richard "Dick" Grayson was taken under Batman's wing and trained as Robin, the Dark Knight's partner in his war on crime. But when the boy became a man, he left the Batcave and now serves his own brand of justice!

DC COMICS™ PRESENTS:

# NIGHTWING IN THE HUNTER

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Could the Joker be responsible?
Doesn't fit his usual M.O.
I've tried to contact Bruce.
He isn't responding.
Neither is Alfred.
May as well call it a night.
Get some rest.
Got an early meeting tomorrow morning.
New security system's looking good.
While my loft may not be as secure as the Batcave--
--it's home.
Couldn't hurt to check in again with Bruce, just in case...

...no Bruce.
Which isn't a surprise.
What now?
I know I should pack it in for the night.
Too wired.
Mind's racing with possibilities.
If I were an underworld boss, where would I--
--of course!
Should have thought of him earlier.
The perfect source for information.
He's plugged into everything that happens in the underworld.

THE ICEBERG CASINO.
ARE THESE OUR ACTUAL LIQUOR BILLS?
NO, JUST THE ONES WE SUBMIT TO THE I.R.S.
HOW MUCH DO WE SAVE BY BUYING UNDER THE TABLE, OGILVY?
ROUGHLY 50%, MR. COBBLEPOT.
TALK TO OUR SUPPLIERS. TRY TO GET THEM DOWN AN EXTRA--
=UFFFT=
KRRASHH
SORRY FOR DROPPING IN WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT, PENGUIN.
=WAH=
ALWAYS HAPPY TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND.
DO YOU WANT US TO--?
YOU LADYBIRDS CAN STAND ASIDE.
THE FORMER BOY WONDER AND I GO BACK A WAYS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, NIGHTWING? I ASSUME THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL.

HARDLY.
CASINO SEEMS A LITTLE EMPTY.
ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE *JOKER?*
NOT AT ALL.
THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME IS USUALLY *GREAT* FOR BUSINESS.
YOU KNOW CRIMINALS--*BUNCH OF OLD GOSSIPS!* EVERYONE POPS IN FOR THE LATEST DIRT.

NO, A *WILDCARD* IS HEADED FOR GOTHAM--AN ELITE ASSASSIN WHO GIVES *NIGHTMARES* TO EVEN THE SICKEST SOCIOPATHS!
*LADY SHIVA.*

"SHE MAY WELL BE THE *DEADLIEST HITTER* IN THE BUSINESS AS WELL AS THE MOST *EXPENSIVE.*
"NO ONE KNOWS HER *TARGET* OR *TARGETS*, BUT THEY'RE ALREADY AS GOOD AS *DEAD*...AND THEY WON'T EVEN SEE HER COMING.
"TRUST ME...THIS IS ONE LADY YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET."
ALREADY HAVE.*
**IN NIGHTWING #0. --B.C.*

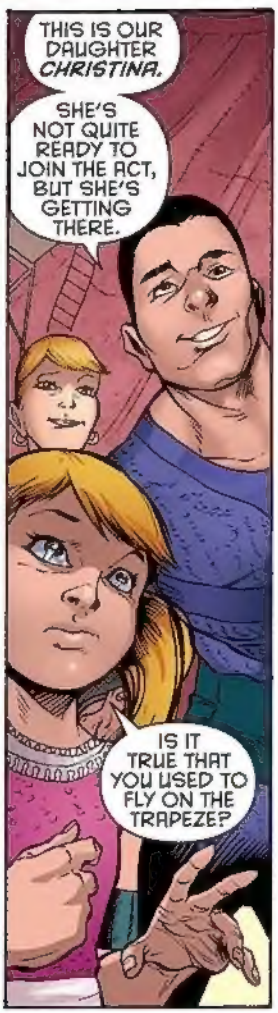
A RARE PLEASURE *FEW* SURVIVE.
RUMOR HAS IT SHE'S AROUND YOUR AGE.
SHE'S AN ASSASSIN FEARED AROUND THE WORLD AND YOU'RE... *WHAT?*
*BATMAN-LITE?*

"I DO HOPE YOU'LL BE *FOOLISH* ENOUGH TO TRY TO STOP HER."
*Can't let the Penguin get to me.*
*With Bruce focused on the Joker, it's up to me to deal with Lady Shiva.*
*She may have trashed me--and even Batman--in our first encounter.*
*But my skills have sharpened over the years.*
*Unfortunately--*
*--I'm sure so have hers.*

I squander a few hours in a fruitless effort to learn more about Lady Shiva--
--before heading to my new project, Amusement Mile, early the next morning.
I've sunk my life's savings into rebuilding this place for Haly's Circus to perform in, among other carnival attractions.
CONSTRUCTION IS MOVING ALONG NICE AND QUICK.

I JUST HOPE WE HAVE A CIRCUS WHEN WE'RE READY TO OPEN.
HOW MANY PERFORMERS HAVE YOU CONVINCED TO STAY, JIMMY?
NOT ENOUGH. MOST ARE STILL CONSIDERING THEIR OPTIONS, LOOKING FOR A LITTLE SECURITY--
--AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE GREATEST REP WHERE THAT'S CONCERNED, DICK.
LARGASKI AND HIS LIONS LEFT FOR FLORIDA LAST NIGHT.

ON THE PLUS SIDE, I FOUND A NEW AERIAL ACT--THE SOARING SORRANOS!
VITO AND HIS WIFE, GINA.
WELCOME TO HALY'S CIRCUS!
THANKS FOR GIVING US THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. GRAYSON. WE LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS PLACE ALREADY.
PLEASE CALL ME DICK.


THIS IS OUR DAUGHTER CHRISTINA.
SHE'S NOT QUITE READY TO JOIN THE ACT, BUT SHE'S GETTING THERE.
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU USED TO FLY ON THE TRAPEZE?

WHEN I WAS JUST A BIT OLDER THAN YOU.
I WAS PART OF AN ACT CALLED THE FLYING GRAYSONS.
MOM SAID I SHOULDN'T MENTION THEM.
THEY DIED.
CHRISTINA!

PLEASE EXCUSE THE INTRUSION, DICK. WE HAVE BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.
BE RIGHT WITH YOU, SONIA.
Not only is Sonia Branch the daughter of the man who killed my parents--

--she's also represents Gotham Municipal, the bank that holds the note on Amusement Mile.
THE TITLE COMPANY SENT OVER SOME PAPERS THAT YOU NEED TO SIGN AND NOTARIZE BY TOMORROW.
HERE THEY ARE, MR. GRAYSON! I MUST SAY, IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

AND YOU ARE...?
MELODY MARTIN, MS. BRANCH'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT.
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE OFFICE, I COULD ALWAYS DROP BY AND--

I'M SURE THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, MELODY.
WHY DON'T YOU MEET ME IN THE LIMO?
WHEN SHOULD I DROP OFF THESE PAPERS, SONIA?

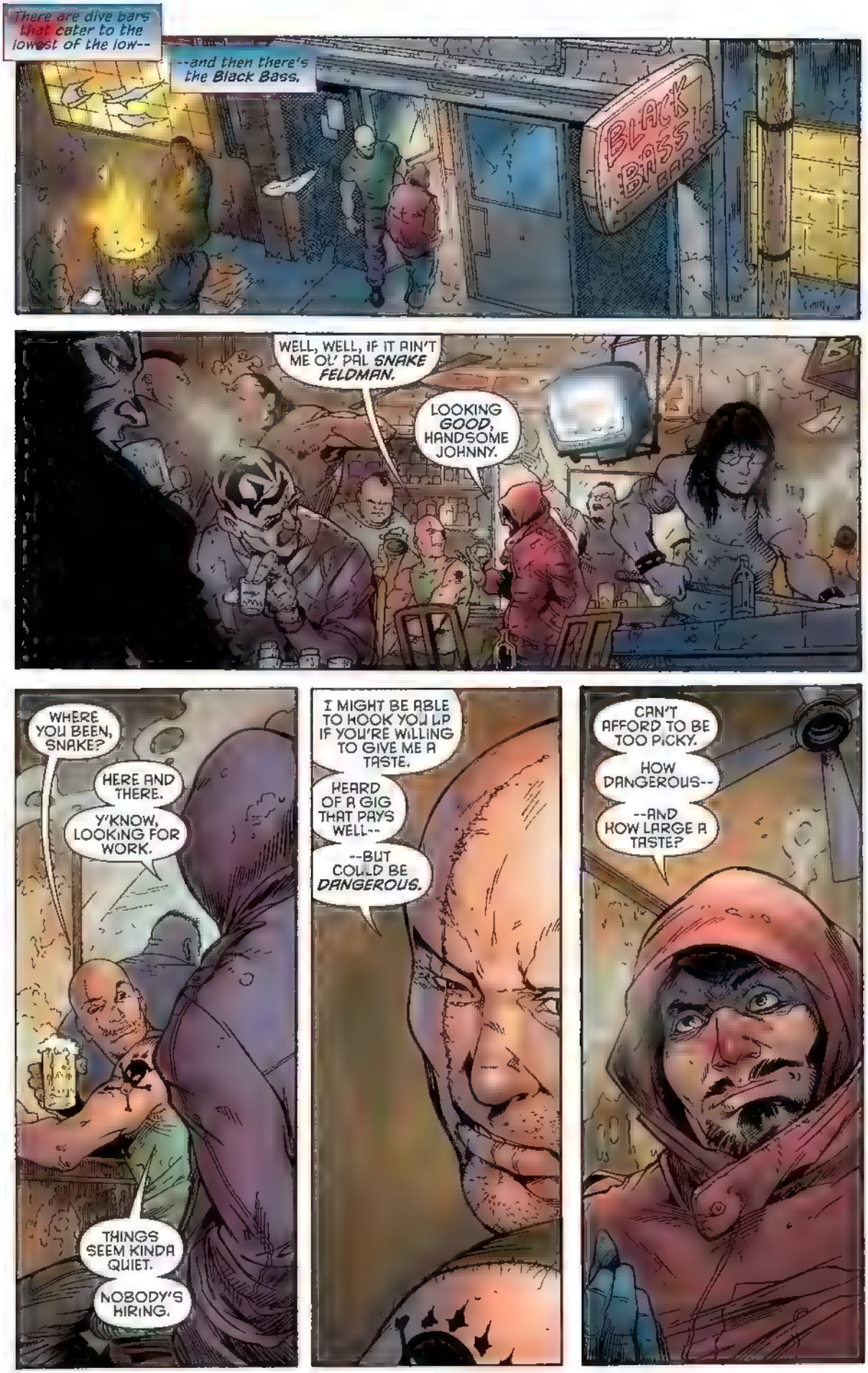
AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, I'LL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE ALL DAY TOMORROW. HAVE TO TESTIFY ON SOME MINOR MATTER AT THE S.E.C.
WHY DON'T WE MEET FOR DINNER TONIGHT AND YOU CAN DELIVER THEM PERSONALLY?
UHH... SURE.
I don't get Sonia.

Is this just a business dinner or...?
Talk about confusing!
Wonder if this is how Batman started with Catwoman.

I head back to my loft, catch a few hours of sleep and spend the rest of the day trying to reach Bruce--
--or get a line on Lady Shiva.
I fail in both endeavors.
ZZZZZZZZZZ
AFRAID WE HAVE TO RESCHEDULE TONIGHT'S MEETING, DICK.
SEEMS I NEED TO PREP WITH A BANK AUDITOR FOR THAT S.E.C. HEARING.
-KAFF- -SNIFFLE-
So it was a... meeting.
Interesting.
Looks like I have the entire night to myself.
May as well put it to good use.
The major mobsters may have fled town.
But there are still plenty of small-timers around--
--and they also gossip.
I settle on a destination when I suddenly spot an old friend--

*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER BATGIRL #14! --B.C

HEY, YOU CAN'T LET THIS--
DON'T!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU.
I CAN'T KEEP LOOKING FORWARD ALL THE TIME.
HELL, I CAN'T EVEN BEAR THE SOUND OF HIS NAME.
HE CRIPPLED ME.
CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO GO FROM THIS--
--TO NEEDING A HANDRAIL TO GET INTO THE SHOWER?
I'M GOING TO HUNT HIM DOWN.
MAKE HIM PAY.
YOU WITH ME?
I'D LIKE TO HELP, BUT--
OF COURSE!
NOT SURPRISED.
YOU'VE ALREADY MOVED ON TO ANOTHER CASE.
JUST AS WELL.
I NEED SOMEONE I CAN COUNT ON.
SOMEONE WHO WON'T FLAKE OUT ON ME WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH.
BATGIRL-- WAIT!
WHY BOTHER?
WE BOTH KNOW HOW THIS ENDS.


There are dive bars that cater to the lowest of the low--
--and then there's the Black Bass.
BLACK BASS BAR
WELL, WELL, IF IT AIN'T ME OL' PAL SNAKE FELDMAN.
LOOKING GOOD, HANDSOME JOHNNY.
WHERE YOU BEEN, SNAKE?
HERE AND THERE.
Y'KNOW, LOOKING FOR WORK.
THINGS SEEM KINDA QUIET.
NOBODY'S HIRING.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HOOK YOU UP IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE ME A TASTE.
HEARD OF A GIG THAT PAYS WELL--
--BUT COULD BE DANGEROUS.
CAN'T AFFORD TO BE TOO PICKY.
HOW DANGEROUS--
--AND HOW LARGE A TASTE?

We haggle over Handsome Johnny's kickback--
BLACK BASS BAR
--and I'm on my way, turning off the effects of Bruce's E.M.P. mask.*
Seems a minor gangster named Chipper Panoicia plans to make a name for himself--
--by taking down Lady Shiva.
*DICK FIRST USED THIS MASK IN BATMAN #1 --B.C.

According to Handsome Johnny--
--Chipper got a tip on where and when Lady Shiva is supposed to arrive.
So he hired an army of trigger-pullers.
For a full-scale meet and greet!
Puts me in bit of a quandary.
Lady Shiva's a stone cold killer.
While I'll do everything in my power to bring her to justice--
--I can't allow her to be slaughtered.
MEN ARE IN PLACE, CHIPPER.
YOU TWO ARE ON ME.
KEEP ME SAFE.
WE GOT YOU, BOSS.
HEADS UP!
MOTOR LAUNCH COMING IN HOT!
GOTTA BE HER!

LET'S DO THIS THING!
TAKE HER DOWN!
EAS EST MONEY WE EVER MADE.
DON'T MATTER HOW GOOD HER REP IS, SHE'S--
WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE!
KRUUG
ZZZZOOOM
Didn't realize there'd be so many gunmen.
Chipper must have invested a small fortune in this op.
KZAK
SHHRAK
GWOK

BDAM BDAM BDAM
Ironic if I went out while trying to save a murderer.
Batman might understand.
Batgirl wouldn't.
W-WHY AIN'T SHE SLOWING DOWN?
OR AT LEAST TRYING TO AVOID OUR GUNFIRE?!
KWWOOOM!
Could she already be wounded--
--or worse?
WHUDD
SPWAK

Doesn't matter.
Must keep fighting.
Keep pushing ahead.
HEY! I GOT NO QUARREL WITH YOU OR THE BAT.
YOU MADE A BAD INVESTMENT, CHIPPER.
BETTER YOU SETTLE UP WITH ME--
--THAN LADY SHIVA.
SPWUNK
S-SHE'S HEADED R.GHT FOR US!
STOP HER!
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
B-BUT I'M PERFORMING A PUBLIC SERVICE HERE AND
:ARRRK:
KRUNK
YEAH.
ME, TOO.

I-IS SHE CRAZY?!
RUN! SHE'S ABOUT TO--

BOOM

Oh, no!
NO!

The boat--!
Lady Shiva was never on it.
She played us all.

Why?
-KAFF-
-KAFF-
-SNIFFLE-
Where is she?
What's her real game?
SSSSSNIK
-URRK-
She's been ahead of me from the start.
How many targets does she have in Gotham?
Is it even possible to stop her--
--before she kills again?
NEXT MONTH:
OVERPOWERED AND OUTMATCHED... NIGHTWING BATTLES LADY SHIVA!

# MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH

**JEPH LOEB**
**JIM LEE**

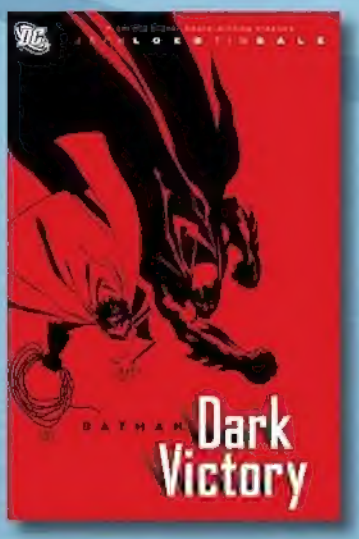
BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD VOLS. 1 & 2

**JUDD WINICK**
**DOUG MAHNKE**

BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN

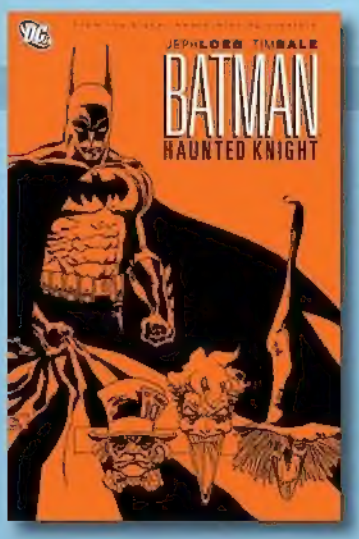
**JEPH LOEB**
**TIM SALE**

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY



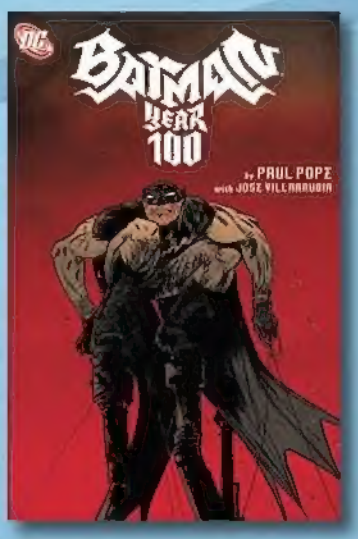

**JEPH LOEB**
**TIM SALE**

BATMAN: HAUNTED KNIGHT




**JEPH LOEB**
**TIM SALE**

BATMAN: YEAR 100




**PAUL POPE**

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